**Social Studies 8 Opening Unit Guiding Questions and Checklists 2012**

Our Opening Unit was designed to introduce you to; classroom tools, routines, review basic vocabulary, knowledge, and understandings of U.S. Geography, Economics, and Government/Citizenship, set in the context of the current events/ present history of Election 2012. In the process we surveyed 10 important content statements from the Ohio Revised 8th Grade Social Studies curriculum.

Here they are presented as "Guiding Questions" that you should be able to answer with specific examples on the assessment. The numbered state standard is given in parentheses.

**Geography Strand**

1. (13) \_\_\_\_\_ What are the 5 Themes of Geography, and how can they be used to describe the connection between where people live and how they live?

2. (14) \_\_\_\_\_ What are the different physical regions of the United States and how would you describe them?

3. (15) \_\_\_\_\_ What are some economic and political characteristics of the different regions of the United States?

**Government and Citizenship Strand**

4. (17) \_\_\_\_\_ What are your basic rights and responsibilities as an American citizen? What Ideas make us American and guide our nation's role in the World?

5. (18) \_\_\_\_\_ Where do you fall on the political ideology spectrum, and which U.S. political party do you most agree with on issues?

6. (19) \_\_\_\_\_ How do political parties and businesses use the media to influence your political and economic opinions and choices?

7. (20) \_\_\_\_\_ What are the 3 branches of government and how do they interact at the national level to accomplish the purposes of government set forth in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution?

8. (21) \_\_\_\_\_ How do the Bill of Rights, Separation of Powers, and Checks and Balances limit the powers of the U.S. Government?

**Economics Strand**

9. (22) \_\_\_\_\_ What are the basic questions of Economics and how are they answered by different economic systems- Capitalist, Socialist, and Communist? How are they answered in the U.S.?

10. (24) \_\_\_\_\_ How does taxation and government spending and regulation impact the U.S. economy?

Checklists are on the reverse...

**Vocabulary Checklists**

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| Geography | Themes of Geography: Location, Place, Region, Interaction, Movement  U.S. Regions: Northeast (incl. New England and Mid Atlantic). Southeast (incl. Gulf Coast), Midwest (incl. Great Plains), Southwest, Rocky Mountain, Pacific (incl. Pacific Northwest) | | | |
| Government and Citizenship | Declaration of Independence  Constitution: Preamble, Articles, Bill of Rights, Amendments  Pledge of Allegiance  Legislative, Executive, Judicial Branches  Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances  Political Spectrum: Liberal, Moderate, Conservative  Political Parties: Republican, Democrat  National Nominating Conventions  Electoral College  Propaganda (Advertising) Techniques: Glittering Generalities, Card Stacking, Testimonial, Transfer, Name Calling, Bandwagon, Plain Folks  First Amendment  Due Process  Human Dignity  Geneva Conventions  Foreign, Domestic | | | |
| Economics  Goods  Services  Factors of Production | Scarcity  Opportunity Cost  Producer  Consumer  Entrepreneur  Profit  TANSTAAFL | Communism  Socialism  Capitalism  Private Sector  Public Sector  Taxes  Budget  Deficit  Debt | Trade/ Commerce  Surplus  Specialization  Imports  Exports  GDP  GDP per Capita | Free Market  Market  Supply and Demand |

**Handouts Checklist** (Except as noted, you should have the following in order as shown in the current unit section of your Social Studies 8 binder)

1. Social Studies Information Packet
2. United States Map (11 x 17)
3. Regions/State Lists
4. 5 Themes of Geography
5. Economic Terms
6. Understanding the Preamble
7. Branches of the Government
8. Identifying Regions and States
9. Map of Regions and States

10. Propaganda Techniques

11. Perceptions of War